

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00577 061004Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 CU-02 MCT-01 EB-08 IO-13  
OMB-01 /095 W  
-----061058Z 081445 /17

R 060910Z APR 77  
FM USINT BAGHDAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4368  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT SCUL IZ  
SUBJECT: DEATH SENTENCES FOR KURDISH DISSIDENTS AND  
OFFICIAL STATUS FOR KURDISH LANGUAGE

1. GOI ANNOUNCED APRIL 3 THAT TEN KURDS RECEIVED DEATH  
SENTENCES FOR SABOTAGE AND ATTEMPTS TO ASSASSINATE LOCAL  
OFFICIALS IN SULAYMANIYA. ANNOUNCEMENT BY INA STATES  
THAT GANG, WHICH INCLUDED TWO ARMY DESERTERS, HAD SERIES  
OF SECRET MEETINGS TO COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS. PUBLIC  
STATEMENT ON OUTCOME OF THEIR TRIAL CONFIRMED RUMORS  
REACHING BAGHDAD OF CONTINUING TENSION IN SULAYMANIYA  
AND SURROUNDING AREA. INA STORY ALSO INDICATES THAT  
SOME MEMBERS OF THE GANG ARE STILL AT LARGE, AND SPECIFIC  
DESCRIPTION OF THE SINGLE REVOLVER WHICH WAS RECOVERED  
LEAVES IMPLICATION THAT BULK OF ARMS USED IN THEIR  
ALLEGEDLY EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND. INA  
ALSO INDICATES THAT CONFESSIONS OF CONVICTED GANG  
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MEMBERS POINT TO "CIRCLES WHICH HAD AUTHORIZED THEIR  
ACTIVITIES." IRANIAN EMBOFF FINDS THIS SOMEWHAT  
OMINOUS AND IS SURPRISED THAT GOI, GIVEN ITS PRESENT  
ANTI-SYRIAN CAMPAIGN, HAS NOT PINNED BLAME ON JALAL  
TALABANI AND HIS PATRONS IN DAMASCUS.

2. MEANWHILE, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE AUTONOMOUS

AREA (KURDISTAN) IN NORTHERN IRAQ HAS APPROVED THE USE OF KURDISH ALONG WITH ARABIC IN ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO WHICH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IS NOT A PARTY. INA REPORT OF APRIL 3 MAKES POINT THAT DECISION IS IMPLEMENTATION OF BASIC DECREE SETTING UP AUTONOMOUS REGION.

3. COMMENT: INCREASED OFFICIAL USE OF KURDISH LANGUAGE IS ONE CULTURAL CARROT WHICH IRAQI AUTHORITIES ARE OFFERING TO PLACATE KURDISH NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS. PRESENCE IN GOI OF HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF KURDISH ORIGIN, SUCH AS VICE PRESIDENT MA'ROUF, AND LIMITED AUTHORITY WHICH HAS BEEN GRANTED TO KURDISH OFFICIALS IN AUTONOMOUS REGION ARE POLITICAL GESTURES WHICH ACCOMPANY PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS AND OTHER ECONOMIC BENEFITS. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEATH SENTENCE IS ALSO A REMINDER, IF ONE WERE NEEDED, THAT GOI HAS NOT BECOME SOFT TOWARDS VIOLENCE CARRIED OUT ON BEHALF OF KURDISH NATIONALISM.  
WILEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, SCUL, IZ  
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